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REMARKS

The Office Action of 08/31/2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected as being directed to unpatentable subject matter. These claims are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected as being anticipated by Bart Balm. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An important difference between the present invention and the cited reference is that in the present invention the counter (#3 in Fig. 1) not only controls the VCO (#1) **BUT ALSO** the divider (#4) whereas in the cited reference a similar block (#DS in the Figure of the cited reference) **ONLY** controls the VCO.

This is **fundamentally** different as in the case of the present invention the window detector (#1 in Fig. 1 of the present application, similar to the FK in the cited reference) *to change the division ratio autonomously* whereas in the cited reference, the window detector can only be used to step up or down the VO *but with fixed division ratio*. As such, in the case of the present invention, it can be quickly determined which sets of division ratios correspond to a certain window and as such determine the **optimal setting** of division ratio and binary setting (code D in Fig. 1 of the present application, similar to code C in cited reference). The apparatus of the cited reference cannot operate in this manner as it lacks the required link/info. In the case of the cited reference, it is only known which code C will ensure locking for a certain division ratio. In the case of the

present invention, an additional degree of freedom is provided, speeding up the locking performance.

The claims have been amended to make these distinctions more clear.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-5 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Ure', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: 11/28/06